

THE ROMANCE OF CAPT. PUTNAM BRADLEE STRONG AND MAY YOHE

An Affair That Has Been of International Interest for the Past Fortnight—America, England and Japan the Countries Concerned. London Now the Scene.

The Scion of an Old New York House and His Adventures With a Siren of the Stage. A Story of Love and Diamonds in Which Both Were Lost.



CAPTAIN STRONG.

(Photo by Aime Dupont.)



MAY YOHE.



CAPTAIN STRONG IN KHAKI.

THE payment by the family of Capt. Bradlee Strong of the claims of May Yohe against the son of ex-Mayor Strong, of New York, for the alleged theft of her diamonds, and the consequent waiting of all legal proceedings against him, brings to a close one of the most notorious cases of its class that has gained world-wide publicity during the last half dozen years.

Captain Strong is now safe from arrest upon the charge of grand larceny made against him by the woman for whom he deserted family, position, and friends, and whom he was to have married in September.

The entire case, which has been so widely discussed and given such notoriety by the woman concerned in it, is but a repetition of the old, old story that crops out every now and then in "high life." May Yohe, who is otherwise Lady Francis Hope, after deserting her husband, Lord Hope, and carrying with her, it is said, all of the Hope jewels in her possession, eloped with Capt. Putnam Bradlee Strong, of the United States army, and son of former Mayor Strong, of New York city. Strong resigned his commission, deserted family ties and friends, and became virtually the slave of the actress. Together they

went to Japan, where they remained nearly a year, living on the money obtained from the pawning of the Hope jewels, Strong having quickly gotten through with all of his own fortune.

Lady Francis Hope is thirty-five years old. She was born in Bethlehem, Pa., and first appeared on the stage when ten years old. She was the daughter of a dressmaker. The little girl's beauty and clever acting brought such a large income, however, that the child's mother abandoned dressmaking to accompany her daughter on her theatrical tours. The girl showed such musical genius that her friends sent her to Europe to cultivate her voice. When she returned she appeared first in Pittsburgh in one of Edward E. Rice's extravaganzas.

She had only a chorus part, but quickly attracted attention, and in 1887 she appeared at the Chicago Opera House in "The Crystal Slipper."

May Yohe was the star of the production, and her success seemed to turn her head. She appeared in various cities later as a member of George W. Lederer's companies, fascinating Jack Mason, among others, and there was a report that they were to be married.

From a successful tour of this country, during which she continued to maintain her reputation for coquetry, she started Australia. Later she went to London,

and there, in "Little Christopher, Jr.," she made a big hit, and Lord Francis Hope appeared on the scene. His attentions were assiduous and were crowned with success. They were married in 1893, despite the vigorous objections of his lordship's family.

They quarreled later and Lord Hope went to England. He returned suddenly, to find his wife a guest at a dinner party, of which Major Strong was the host. Another quarrel followed shortly, and about a year ago Miss Yohe went with Major Strong to Japan. They returned to New York last April.

Immediately after her return she went with Strong to Hastings-on-the-Hudson and fitted up a cottage there in true Japanese style. A maid she brought under contract from the Orient assisted her, and the house was a marvel of beauty and comfort.

The actress, whose early life had been one swirl of pleasure and high living, with scandal mingled freely with it, settled down apparently to the most quiet of existences. Callers were few at the cottage, and May Yohe rarely left it. She never went out unless Strong was with her, and the people in the neighborhood were coming to look upon them with less distaste.

Strong was away frequently by himself. He often went to the races, and is said to have lost a great deal of money during the Brighton Beach meeting.

His fortune was a mere shadow of what was supposed to have been inherited by him when he eloped with her. The report was current then that he had enough to keep him comfortable all his life, to say nothing of a large winning he made last year during the spring panic.

But the actress had a great deal of money besides her jewels, and it is now said that it was she who footed the expenses of their trip to Japan and while they were living there.

She valued her gems at \$250,000, and declares that not a single stone of them belongs to Lord Hope. Some of them were given to her by him, and others were presents in the days when she was a light opera queen.

Shortly after she went to live at Hastings, she decided to put most of the jewels in a safety vault. She knew nothing of business matters herself, but says that instead of calling on Lawyer Friend, she gave the gems to Strong.

According to Miss Yohe, she instructed him to deposit them in her name and thought no more of their safety until last Tuesday. She and Strong came to

New York that day to do some shopping. They made several purchases and went to Delmonico's to luncheon. While they were there Strong said:

"Remember I told you several days ago that my mother was ill?"

Miss Yohe declares that she had a recollection of his saying that Mrs. Strong was not feeling very well, but had no idea that she was ill.

"I am going to see her for an hour or so," Captain Strong went on, "and I will meet you at the station."

He left her then, but did not appear at the station. Miss Yohe says she waited for him several hours and then went home. She received a letter from him the next day.

The letter was very short and told her that his family would look out for the jewels. It also suggested that he was going to kill himself. Mrs. Yohe received a similar note, but neither of them could understand what he meant. The actress came to New York early the next morning and was waiting in Mr. Friend's office when he arrived there.

She showed him the note and asked his opinion of it. The lawyer immediately called up the deposit company. It was said that Strong had rented a vault there some time ago, and it was also learned that he had made several visits to it.

No report was made to the police of Strong's absence, but the Pinkerton Detective Agency was asked to find him.

Before dropping out of sight Strong forwarded the pawn tickets in his possession to his mother. The jewels were speedily recovered. They had been pawned at different times, the tickets in each instance being made out to "Brady." All of the gems were pledged at ridiculous figures.

The brooch, which was enormous and seldom worn, was pawned for only \$2,500. It had been bought only a short time before the beginning of the Boer war for \$9,000. Since then it is said to have risen in value to \$50,000.

It is claimed the gems belonging to Miss Yohe were pledged for less than \$10,000, but she declares that they are worth at least \$100,000, and has expert appraisements to prove her assertion.

When the family of Captain Strong liquidated the claims of the actress, all further legal proceedings against the former officer were set aside, Miss Yohe firmly declaring that she would have nothing more to do with him.

Strong has since turned up in London, instead of Japan, where it was supposed he had gone. He denied May Yohe's assertion that he had stolen her diamonds characterizing her story as "all rot." He ascribes her accusations against him as due to the fact that he left her.

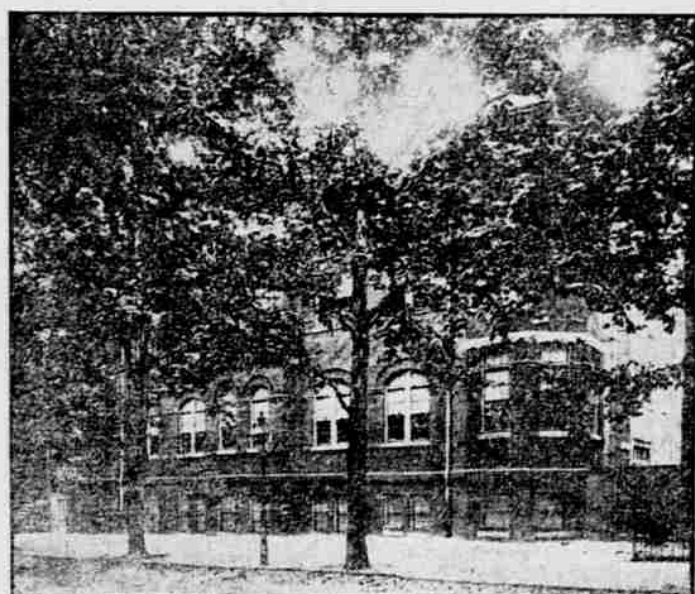
THE COMPLETE AND MOST MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF MISS LOUISE G. NASH

A VERY experienced and observant traveler once remarked that he could walk out of his apartment at one of New York's largest and most extensively patronized hostilities, pass through the groups of guests in the lobby and hallways below, and go any place he wished to in the whole world, without a single person observing him or noting the direction he took. In this way, he said, making not the slightest attempt to move secretly, he could disappear as completely from the presence of companions or those about him as though the earth had opened and swallowed him up.

This somewhat marvelous assertion has been verified right here in Washington—and that, too, by a woman in ordinary life. It has been nearly two months now since Miss Louise G. Nash, the school teacher, simply walked out of her home and vanished utterly from view. Her disappearance grows more mysterious as time passes and no communication is received from her or from any persons who might have seen her. Everything within the power of the local police and detective force, as well as all over the country, has been done to locate the missing woman, but to what avail? The mystery is as incapable of being solved now as it ever was—if not more so.

About 4 o'clock on the afternoon of June 2, she was missed from her home at 1412 Fifth Street northwest, where she lived with her mother. She had four brothers, and one sister, none of whom lived at home with her and her mother. Her father died several years ago. Mrs. Nash and her daughter possessed sufficient means to support them comfortably without either of them doing a stroke of work. Yet Miss Nash preferred to teach school, and held a position under the District government as a teacher for several years. For some time she had been stationed in the second division, at the Taylor School. But as to the exact length of time she had been a teacher, there is a difference of opinion. The young lady herself, in talking of the matter one day shortly before her sudden leave-taking, stated that it had been fifteen years. On the other hand, her mother is sure that it was not more than thirteen years.

Quiet, reticent, and impulsive only in rare instances, she was not the person to confide in anyone. Even to her mother, into whose company she was thrown almost entirely while at home, she seldom mentioned a word concerning the plans and little affairs of her



Taylor School, Where Miss Nash Taught.

everyday life. When she desired to act in any matter, she acted alone, without telling a soul, and in a manner that rather placed a check upon all tendency to question her. She studied hard, read quite a good deal, and said little. All her life, it is said, she had rigidly observed the rule of keeping her own counsel. She had friends, as any other young woman. She was not communicative even to them. She came of a good family and was attractive. From a child, addicted to performing apparently peculiar actions at times, Miss Nash was not bound by the ordinary stereotyped channels of existence that limit the lives of most young women. Yet her life was decidedly commonplace. She possessed a lovable disposition and made friends readily. She had no enemies. With the pupils whom she taught daily she was a favorite. To the best-behaved and the most unruly alike she was kind, gentle, and patient, always ready to forgive and forget an offense. She was friendly with the boys and girls, and in return they admired her.

Uncommunicative regarding her plans, Miss Nash had frequently left her home and mother and gone off, without saying a word to anyone, to visit friends elsewhere or to seek a quiet rest in the country. For these sudden and peculiar journeys she made no preparations so far as could be learned. When the fancy struck her she would merely leave, without so much as saying goodbye, and return when she was good and ready. Sometimes she would write her mother during her absence telling her where she was. Oftener she would not. Miss Nash went out on June 2, ostensibly for the purpose of doing some shopping. She has never returned. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon her mother discovered that her daughter was out. That night she did not return, nor the next day. Nor the following day, nor at any time that week. Mrs. Nash supposed that her daughter had merely gone off on another of her characteristic jaunts, but as time passed by and no word came from her she thought it time to institute some investigations. She did. Letters were written. The machinery of the local police department and departments elsewhere was set in motion. Newspapers took up the matter of the young woman's strange disappearance. Her pictures were published broadcast. The matter was studied from all possible viewpoints. No light could be cast upon it. Nor have the days and weeks, now rounding rapidly into two full months, that have



Miss LOUISE G. NASH.

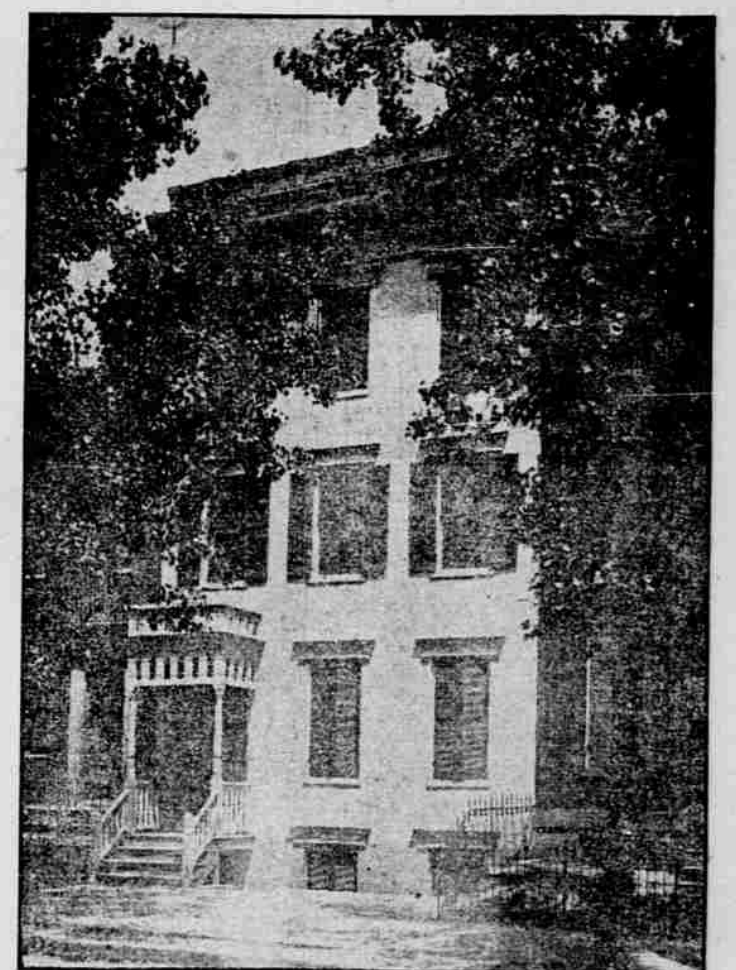
passed since her disappearance revealed any break in the clouds that obscure her fate. Once more the words of that traveler who spoke of how little the people of the world really know of what their neighbors are doing until their attention is arrested by some peculiar cir-

cumstances are being verified in all their force. Her mother had talked several times of leaving Washington and moving out to Kensington, where she had a great many friends. This apparently did not please the young lady. She demurred,

but made no protest. The very suggestion that she had a love affair was utterly scouted by her mother. Never in her whole life, she said, had she evinced the slightest trace of being in love. She was not even as fond of the society and company of men as most young women are.

Then came her disappearance. Mrs. Nash wrote to the college in Philadelphia with which her daughter had corresponded, thinking that perhaps she had gone on there to avail herself of the

summer course. She was not there. Friends in Mountain Lake Park, Md., where mother and daughter had spent a month one summer, were communicated with. The young lady had not been there. It was said by one of her former pupils that she was seen in a prominent department store right here in Washington on July 2. The statement was never verified substantially. The little boy may or may not have seen her. The missing woman's brothers joined in the search for their sister.



Home of the Missing Woman.